

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed September 18, 2007 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fitzmaurice et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0141015) (hereinafter "Fitzmaurice") in view of Frederiksen (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,596). Claims 3,7, 10, 12, 15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fitzmaurice in view of Frederiksen and further in view of Kupka (U.S. Patent No. 7,055,110). Claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

With regard to Claim 1, the Office Action states that "Fitzmaurice discloses a pen-mouse system, in which a glom widget menu is displayed when the widget is selected (page 3-page 4, paragraph 51), but does not explicitly disclose placing a glom widget near a current writing location or the menu has menu items that are associated with handwriting near the current writing location. However, Fitzmaurice does disclose that the tracking menu (glom widget) follows the cursor, and remains stationary when moving the cursor inside the tracking menu (page 2, paragraph 36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the widget could be placed near a writing location. One would have been motivated to place a glom widget near a current writing location so that movement across the tablet PC would be reduced. Frederiksen discloses a similar device for a glom widget that further discloses menu items that are associated with handwriting (letters, copy,

paste; Figure 4, Figure 8) near the current writing location.” In order to more clearly define the invention, the Applicants have amended the independent claims.

As amended, Claim 1 recites in part “placing a glom widget next to a node handle that is associated with current handwriting that is located near a current writing location such that the user selects the glom widget with reduced movement as compared to accessing a toolbar associated with the writing window; wherein the glom widget is represented by a single selectable graphic that includes only two states including a selected state and a non-selected state; maintaining the placement of the glom widget while the node handle is active such that the glom widget is statically positioned during the handwriting that is associated with the node handle.” Among other differences, the cited art does not teach maintaining the position of the glom widget during current handwriting or associating only two states with the glom widget.

As stated by the Office Action, “Fitzmaurice does disclose that the tracking menu (glom widget) **follows the cursor, and remains stationary when moving the cursor inside the tracking menu** (page 2, paragraph 36)” (emphasis added). In other words, Fitzmaurice discloses moving the graphical mouse with movement of the cursor. Fitzmaurice states at paragraph 36 that “This interface 10, which for convenience will be called a pen-mouse, is a tracking menu where the pen-mouse 10 tracks the position of a stylus or pen being used with a pen-based computer.” In contrast to Fitzmaurice, the presently claimed invention statically places the glom widget until the current writing location is changed (i.e. another node handle is activated). As such, the glom widget does not move while the pen is doing editing or handwriting that is associated with the current node handle. Additionally, Fitzmaurice discloses

a graphical user interface that has the appearance of a mouse and therefore has many more selectable buttons (the figures show a three button mouse) as compared to the two-state single button recited in Claim 1. Since the cited references do not disclose the recitations found within Claim 1, Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable. Claims 2-7 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

Claim 8 as amended recites in part “placing a glom widget near the current writing location that provides access to commands associated with writing; wherein the glom widget includes only a selected state and an unselected state; maintaining the placement of the glom widget while a node handle that is associated with the writing is active such that the glom widget is statically positioned during the writing that is associated with the node handle.” Claim 8 is proposed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above. Claims depending from Claim 8 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

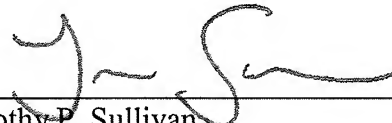
Claim 13 as amended recites in part “placing a glom widget near the current writing location; wherein the glom widget includes only a selected state and an unselected state; maintaining the placement of the glom widget while a node handle that is associated with the writing is active such that the glom widget is statically positioned during the writing that is associated with the node handle.” Claim 13 is proposed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above. Claims depending from Claim 13 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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